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Kennedy Film to be reshowed at Cultural Heritage Center for Archives Month

PIERRE, S.D. – Film footage from President John F. Kennedy’s visit to the dedication of the Oahe Dam on Aug. 17, 1962, will be shown by the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center on Sunday, Oct. 28, as part of October being declared Archives Month in South Dakota by Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

“The purpose of Archives Month is to draw attention to historical collections, in various formats, and to current preservation efforts to protect South Dakota’s history,” said Chelle Somsen, state archivist. “And this well-produced film is a perfect example of that.”

The film, to be shown at 2 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. CST on the 28th, features the audio recording of President Kennedy’s speech. Along with the president’s remarks, the film also includes film footage of various stages of the Oahe Dam’s construction -- from early dirt work, the Missouri River closing and Powerhouse construction.

The film footage and president’s speech were produced by Patrick Callahan of OaheTV. The film was previously shown as part of the Oahe Dam 50th Anniversary Commemoration held in August.

The film footage will be shown in the Education Room of the Cultural Heritage Center. Seating is limited, but the showing is free to the public.

The State Archives is a program of the South Dakota Historical Society. State Archives staff are available to help assist with research from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and the first Saturday of each month, and can be reached at (605) 773-3804 or archref@state.sd.us. For more information, visit www.history.sd.gov/Archives

Cutline information: This photo shows President John F. Kennedy speaking at the dedication of the Oahe Dam on Aug. 17, 1962. (Photo courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives)



The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.